

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Alexander Melville Bell, Eliza Symonds Bell, Melville Bell, Carrie Bell, August 31, 1869, with transcript

Copy of a letter written by Alexander Graham Bell to his parents. Torrington, August 31st, 1869. Dear P. M. M. C. & B.

Westward Ho! After a tr emendous walk through a lovely country we actually reached T orrington (!) last night. This is certainly a respectable day's journey from Crediton .

It was so dark for the last 14 miles of our journey that we had to light a wax taper to read the sign posts. We reached this inn at 11 o'clock. But it was so dark that we have not an idea of its name. We got up this morning at 10 o'clock p erfectly fresh . We have just had breakfast — with Devonshire cream instead of butter.

Whenever I have finished this we shall take a look at the town and start for Bideford. Our proposed route is from Bideford to Westward Ho thence to Appledore — then the ferry to the Braunton side — walk along the coast to Ilfracombe — on to Combemartin and then across the country to Barnstaple.

We may be too soon for a letter at Bideford — but we will give directions to have any forwarded in case you have written before you get this. We shall call at the Post offices of Ilfracombe, Combemartin and Barnstaple in hopes of hearing from home.

I am dear Papa and Mama, Yours affectionate son, A. Graham Bell. Professor A. M. Bell